



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CAMBRIDGE CITY HALL, 795 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139  
PHONE (617) 349-4321  
FAX (617) 349-4320  
TTY/TDD (617) 349-4242

Dear Residents of Cambridge,

I am writing to announce the creation of the Mayor's Volunteer Corps, and to invite you to be a partner in this venture. A strong passion for civic engagement has always been at the heart of my political career, since I first ran for public office in Cambridge. I believe that there is no better way to stay engaged in one's community than to volunteer time and effort in service to a cause greater than one's self.

The history of our country is replete with instances when we've been challenged to look beyond our self interests to the welfare of our community. It is also punctuated by leaders who have challenged us, particularly in time of crisis, to help those of us who are most in need. In his inaugural address in 1961, President John F. Kennedy called upon us to "ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." That exhortation to service has only gained poignancy during these trying economic times. Highlighting the challenges faced by our nation, President Barack Obama used *his* inaugural address to state that we must recognize "that we have duties to ourselves, our nation and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly." Our city has a long history of residents reaching out to help others in need. Last year, after the fire on Prince Street left several Cambridge families homeless, many of you donated generously to the Mayor's Disaster Relief Fund to help the fire's victims. Clearly, the spirit of charity and humanity is thriving in our City!

The Mayor's Volunteer Corps is a vehicle to help answer the calls to service, which many of you have answered in the past. My office will work with neighborhood associations, human and social service organizations, local churches, colleges and universities to identify avenues for volunteering and to connect you with these opportunities. I invite you to join this noble endeavor as soon as possible. Please contact Muna Kangsen, my Coordinator of Special Projects, at 617-349-4329, or via email at [mkangsen@cambridgema.gov](mailto:mkangsen@cambridgema.gov) to express your interest in joining the Mayor's Volunteer Corps. You can also visit the Mayor's website at [cambridgema.gov/special/mayor\\_volunteer\\_2009.cfm](http://cambridgema.gov/special/mayor_volunteer_2009.cfm) to sign up to become a volunteer. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "E. Denise Simmons".

---

Mayor E. Denise Simmons